

Capsule Summary  
SM-646  
Old Ridge School  
Ridge  
Private

c. 1910

Following legislation codified in the Laws of Maryland Chapter 82 and enacted in 1910, the Ridge Elementary School was constructed.<sup>1</sup> This one story, one room, three bay, frame building served the Ridge community until 1956 when the present Ridge Elementary School was built on Airedale Road. In 1964, the building was sold by the St. Mary's County Board of Education and was subsequently converted for commercial use. Extensively modified since it was initially, the school still represents one of the few remaining examples of one room schoolhouses remaining in St. Mary's County.

The history of education in the Ridge vicinity may date to as early as 1839, for it was at this point that the trustees for Primary School #1 purchased a lot from Robert and Ann Clarke for the intended purpose of building a school.<sup>2</sup> While the site of this school has yet to be determined, it appears that Ridge maintained a one room school up until the 1910 when the Old Ridge School was built. Sometime between 1910 and 1956, rising attendance precipitated the Ridge school to be enlarged to include two rooms. This addition extended off the rear of the building and still remains. Sometime after 1964 with the sale of the school a low one story addition was added on to the south side of the building to accomodate a marine supply store which presently uses the school building for storage.

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<sup>1</sup> Regina Combs Hammett, History of St. Mary's County, Maryland, 1634-1990 (Ridge, Md: N.p., 1994), 319. Much of the information in this summary is derived from her book as well as personal conversations with Mrs. Hammett in August of 1998.

<sup>2</sup> St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JH 11, Folio 524. The exact location for this school has never been verified due to the obscure property description included in the deed. Judging from the list of trustees it may have been in the Ridge vicinity.

SM-646, Old Ridge School  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme:

Architecture  
Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type

Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Rural Crossroads

Historic Function and Use:

School

Known Design Source:

None

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. SM-646

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Ridge Elementary School

and/or common Old Ridge School (pref.)

**2. Location**

0.1 mile N of int. of Routes 235 and 5, E side of Rt. 5, across from First Friendship U.M. Church  
street & number ☐ not for publication

city, town Ridge \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 1

state Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ county St. Mary's TM-71, G-1, P-118

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John R. Courtney

street & number 13734 Pt. Lookout Road telephone no.: 301-872-5886

city, town Ridge state and zip code Md 20680

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber 182

street & number folio 401

city, town Leonardtown state Md

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-646

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Old Ridge School is located on the east side of Maryland Route 5 in the small crossroads community of Ridge, Maryland. Oriented on an east west axis, the building is approximately 0.1 mile north of the intersection of Maryland Routes 235 and Route 5. The school is situated on a small lot close to the main road and across the street from First Friendship United Methodist Church (SM-597). The building is presently used as a marine supply store.

The Old Ridge School is a two story, three bay, frame building that has been extensively altered and added on to since it was constructed c. 1910. While altered the main block of the building is still discernable. Erected on concrete piers with cinder block infill, the circular sawn frame was covered by at least three layers of sheathing. Originally composed of German or drop siding, this wood sheathing was covered with faux brick asbestos shingles, and finally aluminum siding. The cornice is enclosed and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The primary or west elevation consists of the two story main block and a more modern one story, frame addition to the south. The main or original block is pierced on the first floor by a centrally located door flanked on either side by eight-over-eight, double-hung sash windows. The second floor is pierced by a centrally located eight-over-five window flanked on either side by an eight-over-eight window. The modern addition, which features similar sheathing and roofing materials exhibits a centrally located modern door flanked to the north by a three part window consisting of a central picture window flanked by one-over-one sash. To the south is a strip of three eight-over-eight windows. At the junction of the main block and addition is an exterior end, brick chimney flue that extends beyond the roof of the main block.

The north elevation consists of the gable end of the main block and the side of a rear one story wing -- a wing that housed an additional classroom and added sometime between 1910 and 1956 when the school closed. The main block is pierced by two, six-over-six windows and a six-pane-over-three-panel door. The addition is pierced by three six-over-six windows.

The rear or east elevation consists of an amalgam of different additions that adjoin the wing, modern addition, and main block. The wing is pierced by a door and twelve pane fixed sash window. An interior end brick chimney flue extends beyond the peak of the wing's roof. A large refrigeration unit is situated beside the wing. It has a single door. A shed roof addition extends from the modern addition. This section features a garage door, a door entry, and a paired set of six-over-six windows.

The south elevation consists of the addition's gable end and the rear shed. The shed addition is pierced by two six-over-six windows.

Much of the school's original interior furnishings are no longer visible as the space is currently used for storage for the marine supply business.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-646

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

## Specific dates

## Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Following legislation codified in the Laws of Maryland Chapter 82 and enacted in 1910, the Ridge Elementary School was constructed.<sup>1</sup> This one story, one room, three bay, frame building served the Ridge community until 1956 when the present Ridge Elementary School was built on Airedale Road. In 1964, the building was sold by the St. Mary's County Board of Education and was subsequently converted for commercial use. Extensively modified since it was initially, the school still represents one of the few remaining examples of one room schoolhouses remaining in St. Mary's County.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-646

See Significance 8.0.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 39,204 sq. ft.Quadrangle name Pt. LookoutQuadrangle scale 1:24 000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Dept. of Planning & Zoningdate 8-17-98street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

SM-646, Old Ridge School  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber 182, Folio 401

Grantee: John T. Courtney, Jr.

Grantor: Frank F. and Asulia H. Birch

Date: October 14, 1972

Notes: The property is mentioned as being the "Old Ridge School Property."

Reference: Liber DBK 181, Folio 78

Grantee: Frank F. and Asulia H. Birch

Grantor: William B. and Eloise H. Peterson

Date: August 26, 1972

Notes: Listed as Tract No. 1, the school is sold to the Birchs as are a number of other parcels.

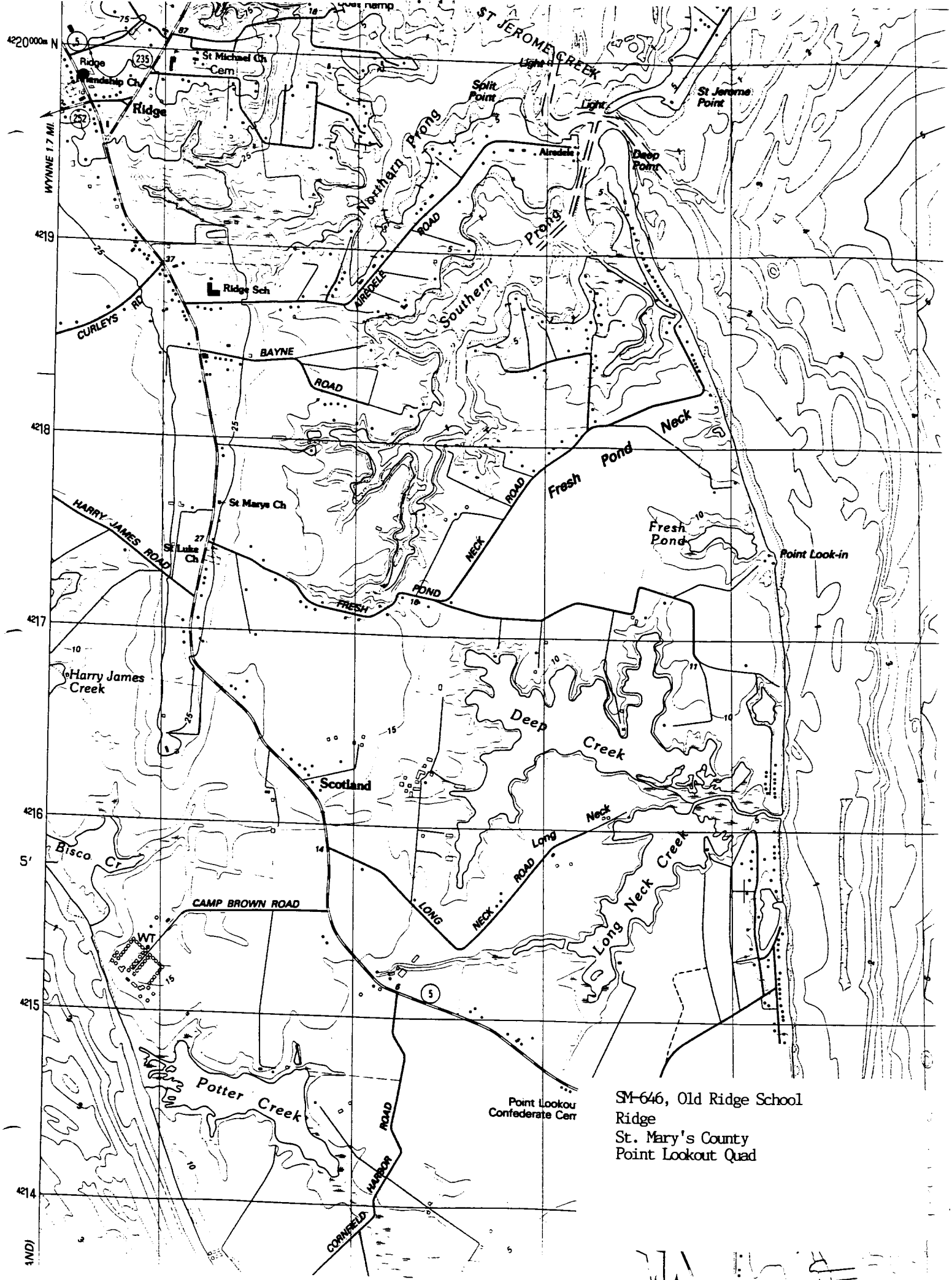
Reference: Liber CBG 113, Folio 382

Grantee: William B. and Eloise H. Peterson

Grantor: Board of Education

Date: May 26, 1964

Notes: A ban clause is not given and search through the grantee/grantor index could not determine where the Board of Education received the property from.



SM-646, Old Ridge School  
Ridge  
St. Mary's County  
Point Lookout Quad





SM-B46

Old Ridge School

St. Charles County

Kirk Parnetta

Aug/98

4d SHFO

E + N = 1000000

1 of 2



SM-6116

Old Bridge School

St. Mary's County

Kirk Rancetta

Aug/98

-4d SH/PC

Wt 5.6 kg

2 of 2